

APPENDIX A

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET  
REGISTRATION, SUBSCRIPTION, and STATISTICAL SERVICE  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Date June 17, 1985

Full name John Eric French  
(No initials if you can possibly get full name)

Address [REDACTED]

City Martinsburg State West Virginia Zip Code 25401

Date of birth April 30, 1961 (This is important and should be exact.)

Approximate age 24 (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

Religion Protestant Nationality American

Occupation Laborer

Education High School

Weight 165 Height 5'10" Race White

Color of hair Dark Brown Color of eyes Brown

Outstanding characteristics or interests E.M.T. (Active EMT co/Rescue Squad)

Married or single Single Children none  
(Number, ages, and names, if possible)

Spouse's name none

Scouting connections:

<u>Unit No.</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Date registered</u>	<u>Date resigned</u>
Troop 161	Martinsburg, WV		SA	3/3/83	6/16/85
Troop 58	Martinsburg, WV		MC	7/23/83	6/16/85
Special recognition	<u>Eagle Scout / O.A. Vigil</u>				

Suspended or denied registration for following reasons:

See Attached  
SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF REGISTRATION, AND LIST  
ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (STATE ONLY KNOWN FACTS, NOT RUMOR, CONJECTURE,  
OR SPECULATION):

F. STARON

JUN 24 1985

NOTED

APR 15 '86

JOSEPH L. ANGLIM

Signed [Signature]  
SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Council SHENANDOAH AREA 598

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

Bel Nofenberger

01 Winchester VA

# Phar

TELEPHONED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE CALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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WAS IN TO SEE YOU | WILL CALL BACK

WANTS TO SEE YOU

UNRECEIVED  
RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message Luci Thresh

negotiate better - did  
you not need any thing.

Will not be there 27/10/87 -

Wed. - cold but 5<sup>PM</sup> R.

Dep Hands Operator Shae

ΑΙΟΝΩ ΣΕΣΟ

ME 56-1-1

OF 7 TO

TO *David*  
FROM *Wolfsberger*  
OF

DATE 8-24

001  
AREA CODE

**NO**

3X

TIME 8:56 AM PM

1. **Introduction**

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SIGNED RR WASHIN URGENT

WAS IN	URGENT
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WILL CALL  
AGAIN

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

WANTS TO  
SEE YOU

11

03A

RETURN

RECA

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CAI	BAC
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111

BEN

January 22, 1991

Mr. Wm. W. Wolfersberger  
Scout Executive  
Shenandoah Area Council, No. 598

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: John E. French

Dear Bill:

A recent check of our Ineligible Volunteer File against the National Eagle Scout Association indicated that the above named individual is presently a member of NESA.

This individual is listed on our Ineligible Volunteer File and will not be permitted to register with the Boy Scouts of America. We wanted you to be aware of this, so that the individual cannot participate in any activities with the council, simply because he is a member of NESA. He should not participate in any leadership capacity or assume any responsibility in the Boy Scouts of America. He could participate as a parent if he has a son or daughter involved.

We wanted to make you aware of this, so you would not involve him. Let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration and Statistical Service

eko

cc: James D. Wilson, Southeast Region

READY TO FILE  
JAN 22 1991  
ERIN ORILEY

CONF024786



July 14, 1988

Mr. Scott F. Reynolds  
BOWLES, REYNOLDS & RISAVI  
Attorneys at Law  
P.O. Box 2149  
314 West John Street  
Martinsburg, WV 25401

Re: John Eric French

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

Your letter of March 10, 1988, regarding the referenced individual, has been forwarded to me.

It is our understanding that Mr. French was given the opportunity for a review of the action taken at the time he was notified regarding his registration.

If this is not the case, please notify me and we will arrange for a review if that is what he wishes.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

David K. Park  
National Legal Counsel

DKP:nfc  
4604c

CONF024788



National Office  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
Irving, Texas 75038-3096

David 3/14  
With the admintion  
of attorney  
talking to attorney  
Please prepare  
response to the  
attached

RECEIVED

MAR 14 1988

DAVID K. PARK

William J. McLaughlin  
214-580-2020

# Bowles, Reynolds & Risavi

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

P.O. BOX 2149

314 WEST JOHN STREET

MARTINSBURG, WV 25401

CYNTHIA GAITHER BOWLES  
SCOTT F. REYNOLDS  
DIANA COOK RISAVI

TELEPHONE

March 10, 1988

Personnel Committee  
C/O Boy Scouts of America  
National Council  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
Irving, Texas 75038

Re: John Eric French

Dear Committee Members:

I have been contacted by and represent Mr. J. Eric French regarding his suspension from the Boy Scouts of America. Eric has been involved with the Boy Scouts of America for quite a few years including serving as an assistant scoutmaster for a local troop for eight (8) years, since he was eighteen years old. His record of service with the Boy Scouts of America was exemplary and unquestioned.

By letter dated June 15, 1985, Mr. French was informed that his registration with the Boy Scouts of America was suspended. This was based, we believe, on allegations made against him regarding an incident which was supposed to have occurred sometime in the summer of 1984. Mr. French has never had a proper opportunity or forum in which to defend himself or his name. Mr. French has continuously asked the local council for information (ie. names, dates, places, times, etc.) of the alleged incident, but has of this date been refused. Mr. French denies that any such encounter took place, but he also hopes that you can appreciate the difficulty of preparing a defense when you are not aware of the allegations against you.

One further item which should be brought to your attention. At the initial dismissal meeting, Mr. French was told that the entire proceedings and decision were confidential. He has since heard through various sources in the community, that at least one person who was present at the dismissal meeting has breached the confidentiality of the meeting and has spread the allegations to third parties. This should be taken up by the Boy Scouts of America in some form. If you wish to contact me, I can provide you with additional information concerning this breach of the confidentiality.

CONF024790

Personnel Committee

Page 2

March 10, 1988

Mr. French seeks only to have his name cleared and to be restored to the privileges and duties which are associated with being a member of the Boy Scouts of America. I will look forward to hearing from you regarding this review of his suspension. If you need any further information, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Scott F. Reynolds

pc: J. Eric French

SFR/glb

CONF024791





SCOUTING/USA

National Office  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
Irving, Texas 75038-3096

Paul Ernst

Send a copy of  
letter to Hoyt -

I assume  
the guy got the  
MSL letter re

percent of net  
have one sent to him

David K. Parks  
214-580-2005  
S460

6-17-86

TALKED TO BILL WOLFESEBERGER ABOUT  
ERIC FRENCH CASE. NO FORMAL  
REQUEST FOR REVIEW WAS EVER RECEIVED  
BY COUNCIL.

CAMPION IS SENDING ANOTHER LETTER  
WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR REVIEW ON  
6-18-86. WILL KEEP US INFORMED

Paul Amst

RECEIVED

JUN 3 1986

DAY - K. PARK



National Office  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
Irving, Texas 75038-3096

6/3/86

Hoyt Hunt

"Assume this  
was a Council  
Review, If the  
procedure was/is  
followed - next  
Regional Review.

Regards  
H/S

Harold Sokolsky  
214-580-2003  
S400

cc: David Park

Marlinsburg, WV 25401  
May 31, 1986  
6/3

Mr. Ben H. Love, Chief Scout Executive

Irving, IA 75038

✓  
\$ 598  
Winchester, VA

Dear Mr. Love;

My name is John Eric French. I am writing to you to ask for your help in a matter involving myself and the Shenandoah Area Council, BSA. In June of 1985, I was called into a meeting with Mr. William Wolfensburger (council executive), Mr. Roy Young (District Commissioner), and the head of the sponsoring institution for Troop 161. At this meeting, I was told I was dismissed from Troop 161 and Scouting. The reason given to me was that one of the scouts at Troop 161 claimed that I took him away from a troop camp-out to a nearby house and played with his genitals. This is the only information I was given.

I was then advised to get a lawyer, but if I fought the council I would lose. At that time, I chose to drop the matter and leave scouting on the urging of several friends in scouting since a court battle would be damaging to both myself and area scouting.

As far as I can tell this started at summer camp in 1984. At that time, three scouts from Troop 161 said I tried to molest them at camp, but on returning home when the scouts were asked they said they just made it up. I started to leave Troop 161 at that time but Scoutmaster Bob Moran and Roy Young asked me to stay with the troop. From that time until the time of my dismissal meeting, I never heard of any more complaints.

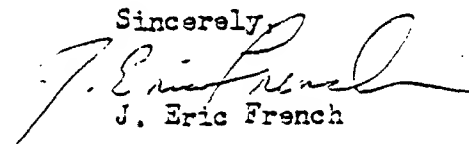
At the dismissal meeting, I was not given the name of the boy accusing me or any more details. At that time, I was told that what was said in the meeting would go no further. Since that time, I have learned of accusations being made about that meeting and my behavior at my place of employment, my volunteer fire department, and even my brother-in-laws Civil War reenactment group.

I am sorry to say that I have lost all respect for the Boy Scouts and the Scout Oath and Law. If a boy can place a charge against any adult leader and get away with it without the leader being given a chance to have time to defend himself, then something is very wrong.

I ask that you look into this matter, so that I can at least say the Boy Scouts of America did treat me fairly. I do not believe that I was treated properly by the local council and do not believe they would treat me fairly if I approached them to try and resolve this matter.

I thank you for your time and I hope you can help.

Sincerely,

  
J. Eric French



SCOUTING/USA

A program for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Explorers

National Office  
**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

1325 Walnut Hill Lane, Irving, Texas 75038-3096  
Telephone: 214-659-2000

June 25, 1985

Mr. William Wolfersberger  
Scout Executive  
Shenandoah Area Council, No. 598

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Bill:

Thank you for the information which you sent us concerning John Eric French. This shall be most helpful to us as we set up a file to refuse future registration attempts.

Were any other youths involved with Mr. French? The confirmation of other instances would certainly help us to have a more solid case. I hope you will send me anything else which may become available to you.

Please let us know if we may be of help.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration, Subscription &  
Statistical Service

clf

cc: Southeast Region

*Dear Paul 9/22/85  
Attached is some more  
info for your file on  
ERIC French  
John Ernst*

CONF024796

Mr. William W. Wolfersberger  
Scout Executive  
Shenandoah Area Council, BSA.  
P.O. Box 3207  
Winchester, Va., 22601

Dear Bill,

I am writing you in response to your concerns about, Troop 161 Unit Leader at Camp Rock Enon in 1984, Eric French. During the week of July 15-21, 1984 several situations were brought to my attention.

These situations were stated by five scouts from Troop 161. The scouts making statements against Eric French were [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] said that "Eric French is a POWER HUNGRY Assistant Scoutmaster." [REDACTED] said that Eric called [REDACTED] "STUPID" when [REDACTED] spilled water when he was cooking on outpost. He also stated that "EVERYONE sleep together" as requested by Eric. (Everyone was asked to undo their sleepingbags and use them as a community sleeping BLANKETS). IN THE CAMPSITE: On Friday, [REDACTED] did not clean tent and Eric took their Footlocker, and walking stick. Walking stick was found in the woods and the footlocker was in Eric's tent. Then [REDACTED] took Eric's hat and light. When all three got together their was lots of "Yelling". [REDACTED] questioned Eric's right to take their stuff. (As Camp Director, I question that action as well and Eric's response was that it was a form of discipline.) [REDACTED] said that Eric grabbed [REDACTED] neck as he told him to "KEEP TENT NEAT". On Thursday morning, Seth said that Eric handcuffed two scouts from troop 31 to a tree. The scouts were [REDACTED]? . They put Eric's sleepingbag and pack up the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] said that the Camp Staff was "great". He had the most to say about Eric's actions during their outpost program. He said that Eric provided a big sheet of plastic for everyone to sleep on (everyone included Eric and six scouts). [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] cooked while Eric read directions. They had a campfire. Eric asked ALL the boys to unzip sleepingbags and they used them as blankets. "Everyone sleep together". "Eric sleep in the middle of boys." He woke [REDACTED] up at about 12:30 and put Sean's head on Eric's chest. Eric put his hand on [REDACTED] stomach. Eric played with the strings to [REDACTED] sweats! Earlier in the camp outpost [REDACTED] had been hurt on the knee and when Eric checked the injury he was accused of touching [REDACTED] on the upper leg near underwear line. [REDACTED] also said that Eric had given the boys "weggies". [REDACTED] also mentioned the actions mentioned in Seth's summary dealing with footlocker and handcuffs. Sean said that Seth and [REDACTED] noticed Eric was "WATCHING" the boys very closely as they showered.

██████████ said that Eric got real mad at ██████████ while they were cooking on outpost because ██████████ spilt the water. Eric also got mad at the pie mix. Sean cut leg and Eric treated the first aid. Eric insisted that the boys sleep together using sleepingbags as blankets and when they questioned the arrangements they were denied other arrangements. ██████████ sleepingbag got wet because of the arrangements according to ██████████ IN THE CAMPSITE. ██████████ said that Eric took ██████████ Footlocker without permission. Also, he took Chris's knife and jacket without permission. Eric Handcuffed two scouts from Troop 31 to a tree for about 30 minutes. They wanted to be set free. Eric took the handcuffs and key for another 45 minutes after letting the two boys free.

██████████ said that Eric made the boys all sleep on the same sheet of plastic. He said that ██████████ and Eric wrestled and cut a half shirt while doing this. IN THE CAMPSITE: ██████████ said that ██████████ and Sean were giving Eric a hard time by leaving the campsite before cleaning up their tent. That is why Eric took the footlocker. He also confirmed that two scouts from troop 31 were handcuffed to tree but did not know why.

██████████ said that he knew nothing but he was with the group of boys wanting to make a complaint against Eric.

My actions were as follows: When the boys approached me with their problem I obtained the services of Randy Smith; CRE Program Director, Brad Coffey; CRE Commissioner, and Rich Orndorff; CRE Medical Officer. Randy and Brad sat in on the statements by the boys but did not make any written notes about the statements. ██████████ stayed with the boys that we still needed to talk with while they waited in the Program room in Buffalo Lodge. After each boy spoke to us they then waited on the front porch of Buffalo Lodge.

After hearing the boys' statements Randy, Brad and I decided that we needed to speak to Eric. Therefore, Brad and I went to the campsite ( Pinnacle ) to speak to Eric. At the site we found things in clam order and Eric was at the shelter. We asked about the above stated situations and he said that the first aid was done by the book, the sleeping together was done to keep the scouts warmer, the assistance in meal prep was done to save time because it was getting late, the handcuffing was done in fun nature and was not ment to hurt anyone, the trunk, knife and jacket were taken to discipline the scouts for not cleaning their tent, and he denied any questionable actions but did admit that he could have done somethings a little differently to avoid conflicts. At this point in time Eric decided to leave camp because he was upset. Later that day Mr. Bob Moran came to camp and told me that the boys were stretching the truth and that the would like to withdraw their complaints and the boys were there and agreed to this. However, their agreement might have been influenced by their Scoutmaster's statements. Therefore, no action was taken on the statements at that time.

I have reviewed  
this letter and  
agree to its contents  
Randy J. Smith

██████████ Yours in Scouting,  
██████████

September 9, 1984

Re: Eric French  
Assistant Scoutmaster T/61

Deposition of [REDACTED]

Witnesses : Roy Young  
District Commissioner  
Potomac District  
Shenandoah Area Council

Mother : [REDACTED]  
Father : [REDACTED]

The problems that I experienced with Eric French started at summer camp last year in 1984. The 2nd week of July and Tuesday into the 3rd day at camp myself and 5 other Scouts hiked up to outpost Seaton.

We got up to outpost and Mr French knew it was going to rain and he thought it would be cold. He put a large piece of plastic tarp up and said (insisted) we couple our sleeping bags together so we could stay warm from each others body heat. Nobody wanted to do it, so he did it himself. When everyone saw what was done we all took our bags apart again. He (Eric) got mad because we were not following his orders. I had gone to get water and when I returned I took mine apart from Eric's bag.



Eric didn't like what was done so he put all the bags back together again. I was asked to go back after more water and on my return tripped over a log and scratched my right thigh. Mr French administered first aid to my leg and asked me to take my shorts down so he could examine my behind for further wounds after which I pulled up my shorts.

After about 45 minutes Mr French crept up behind me and pulled down my shorts (Scout) and underwear. I turned around and asked him what his problem was. Later on while we were eating dinner, Mr French pulled down Seth Mackham's and Hoppy Stone's underwear and shorts. Both Seth, Hoppy, myself and the other Scouts stayed clear of Mr French as best we could the rest of the evening.

We went to sleep away from Mr French but it started to rain hard and I was moved back next to Mr French under the tarp. Also, he arranged how everyone else was to sleep as well. I went to sleep and sometime around 7:00 PM, he woke me up. <sup>as</sup> he noticed I didn't have a pillow and he picked up head and laid it on his chest. I moved away from him and put my head on the ground. After that he talked to me about camp. I was laying on my stomach and Eric put his hand under my stomach and the ground. Each time I moved he lowered his hand toward my private parts. I picked up his hand and threw it away and told him to leave me alone. He left me alone for awhile and then tried again. I said if he ~~wasn't~~ didn't.

leave me alone, I would go sleep with Troop 31. He didn't bother me the rest of the night.

Next day Mr French took a locker I was sharing with [redacted] and hid it in the woods and would not tell us where it was. So that evening we hid his things and he got mad at us. We knew he hid our things because other Scouts in our Camp saw him do it. We talked to three Camp Counselors about [redacted] and they said we should tell [redacted] the Camp Director, we did. All six of us Scouts went to Mr Dotson and gave statements which were taken in writing. [redacted] said he would look them over and send them to the Scout office. Nothing ever came out of what was said in our statements to the Camp Director. I heard that Mr Dotson questioned whether ~~not~~ what we said was true or not.

We stayed away from Mr French as much as we could the rest of camp.

Several other incidents happened since that summer camp.

1. This past spring of 1985, Mr French took [redacted] myself and Tony Edwards, a new Scout [redacted] to buy uniforms. Nothing happened that night, but two weeks later he took me and I insisted on a friend coming to buy uniform pants for me with his money. My parents questioned his actions and he said he was trying to help the Scouts and used it as a tax deduction at the end of the year.

He brought us home and then dropped off my friend [redacted] and then brought me back home. He asked me several questions,

- was I gay in anyway?
- did I look at boys
- about Masturbation & did I do it?

He told <sup>me</sup> that while he was in high school he had sex with another boy. He did it because he lost a bet. He explained it in detail (oral contact). I finally came into the house.

2. Same evening - Mr French wanted me to approach another Scout at some camp outing like I was [redacted] and see what he would do. I said No.

From this point on I tried to keep my distance from Eric.

I am making this statement in the presence of my parents and Roy Young of my own free will. They are true in every detail.

[redacted]

June 25, 1985

Mr. William Wolfersberger  
Scout Executive  
Shenandoah Area Council, No. 598

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Bill:

Thank you for the information which you sent us concerning John Eric French. This shall be most helpful to us as we set up a file to refuse future registration attempts.

Were any other youths involved with Mr. French? The confirmation of other instances would certainly help us to have a more solid case. I hope you will send me anything else which may become available to you.

Please let us know if we may be of help.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration, Subscription &  
Statistical Service

clf

cc: Southeast Region

RECEIVED  
JUN 28 1985  
SCOUTS OF AMERICA

CONF024803



Shenandoah Area Council, Inc. #598

## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

2300 Roosevelt Blvd. • P O Box 3207 • Winchester, Va. 22601

Telephone. 703/662-2551

June 15, 1985

John E. French

Martinsburg, WV

Dear Mr. French,

After careful review, we have decided that your registration with the Boy Scouts of America should be suspended. We are therefore compelled to request that you sever any relations that you may have with the Boy Scouts of America.

You should understand that BSA leadership registration is a privilege and is not automatically granted to everyone who applies. We reserve the right to suspend registration whenever there is a concern that an individual may not measure up to the high standards of leadership which the BSA seeks to provide for American youth. Please also understand that this decision and the reasons for it will be maintained as confidential.

If you wish to have this decision reviewed, please write to me, explaining your version of the facts supporting your claim that your registration as a BSA leader should be granted or reinstated.

Sincerely yours,

*William H. Knee*  
Skeeter

Skeeter Knee  
President

MEMBER AGENCY OF THE UNITED WAY OF

BERKELEY, CLARKE, FREDERICK, JEFFERSON AND WARREN COUNTIES



CONF024804

June 16, 1985

